

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12125 271528Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9085

S E C R E T ROME 12125

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF US POSITION ON PCI

REF: ROME 11583 AND ROME 11987

1. SINCE ANDREOTTI BEGAN HIS EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER A DC-LED GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, I HAVE BEEN TAKING A VERY HARD LINE WITH THE DC AND WITH THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AGAINST MAKING CONCESSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENT AND IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN HELPED BY WHAT IS GENERALLY REGARDED HERE AS RELIABLE REPORTING BY UGO STILLE (ROME 11583 AND 11987), TO THE EFFECT THAT THE USG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PCI IS CONSIDERABLY LESS RIGID AND IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GREATER LATITUDE TO DC-PCI COLLABORATION. THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT THE VIEW I HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING IN PRIVATE. THE DEPARTMENT'S DENIAL OF THE ORIGINAL STILLE ARTICLE WAS HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH DENIALS NEVER REALLY CATCH UP WITH THE ALLEGATIONS. STILLE'S MOST RECENT ARTICLE (ROME 11987) WAS HOWEVER PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO OUR EFFORTS IN THESE CRUCIAL DAYS OF FINAL NEGOTIATION ON THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT.

2. IN VIEW OF THEIR HARMFUL EFFECT, I WOULD LIKE AUTHORITY TO DENY PRIVATELY THE ACCURACY OF STILLE'S ARTICLES AND TO

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PAGE 02 ROME 12125 271528Z

REASSERT USG OPPOSITION TO THE PCI HAVING ANY SIGNIFICANT

ROLE IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNING PROCESS. I WOULD ALSO HOPE
THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL FIND AN EARLY OCCASION TO MAKE THE
SAME POINTS. VOLPE

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